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SOURCE Ch'un-chung (The Masses).

URGES CHANGE IN FORM  
OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

According to an editorial issued by the New China News Agency, Pei-p'ing, the form of municipal organization and mode of functioning should be adapted to the conditions characteristic of cities. The system in effect in T'ien-ching since the liberation divides the civil authority among offices on three different levels, the municipal government administration, (shih-cheng-fu), district offices (ch'u-kung-so), and street offices (chieh-kung-so). This system, however, unwisely brings over into the cities the form and methods of the rural areas. The hsien, district and village governmental structures are doubtless necessary for rural areas, since the rural economy, the villages, and the population are dispersed over a wide territory. but conditions in the cities are quite different: the municipal economy and the population is concentrated in a comparatively restricted area, particularly so with modern means of communication. Therefore, the governmental structure and mode of operation for a city should be of a concentrated type.

Facts show that factories, banks, public organizations, and schools involve problems with which district offices and street offices cannot and should not deal. When they attempt to do so, each inevitably tends to act as an independent government, and the result is as though there were no government, no semblance of organization. Under such a system it is difficult to give full and uniform effect to the municipal government's policy decisions, and misinterpretation and perversion of orders often occurs. Such cutting up and dispersion of civil authority seriously reduces the efficiency and effectiveness of the city's governmental operations; therefore, the district offices and street offices should be abolished.

Authority for decisions should be centered in the City Government Administration which should issue orders to its various departments. For instance, orders pertaining to public safety should be referred to the Police, those pertaining to health to the Board of Health, education to the School Department, etc. Each of these departments may then establish such branches or substations as they deem necessary for the proper discharge of their responsibilities.

The rural form of organization and operation may be all right for the rural areas, but it is not suited to the conditions that characterize the cities, and unless we change over to a more suitable type of organization and manner of functioning, we shall not be able to govern the cities, nor find it possible to carry out the Party's policy for the cities.

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- 1 -

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